

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

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PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /084 W

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R 191411Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8361

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 2141

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PBOR MO AG

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN RELATIONS: GOM CONTINUES HARD LINE

1. ALGERIAN INTERESTS OFFICER TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 17 THAT ALGERIAN COMMERCIAL REP IN CASABLANCA HAD BEEN EXPELLED THAT DAY BY GOM AUTHORITIES. OFFICIAL DID NOT REVEAL CHARGES, BUT SAID COMMERCIAL REP HAD BEEN APPREHENDED, HELD BY POLICE FOR OVER 24 HOURS, AND TAKEN DIRECTLY TO PLANE WITH HIS FAMILY WITHOUT BEING PERMITTED TO RETURN HOME. COMMERCIAL REP HAD CARRIED OFFICIAL PASSPORT.

2. ALGERIAN OFFICIAL SAID ALGERIA CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN INTACT ITS CONSULAR REPRESENTATION IN CASABLANCA AND OUJDA. ITS TWO-OFFICER INTERESTS SECTION HERE, ALTHOUGH TECHNICALLY UNDER UAE AUSPICES, CONTINUED TO USE THE ALGERIAN CHANCELLERY. AN INDETERMINATE NUMBER OF ALGERIAN STAFF AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL ALSO REMAINED BEHIND. COMMENT. THERE MAY BE SOME PULLING AND TUGGING BETWEEN THE GOM AND GOA WITH RESPECT TO REPRESENTATION LEVELS, FOR WHEN EMBOFF OBSERVED THAT ALL MOROCCAN SUBSTANTIVE REPRESENTATION IN ALGIERS LEAVING, ALGERIAN INTERESTS

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OFFICER POINTEDLY NOTED THAT MOROCCAN CONSULAR REPRESENTATION

IN ALGIERS CONTINUED. ALGERIANS MAY BE ATTEMPTING USE AS
LEVERAGE GREATER GOM NEED FOR CONSULAR REPRESENTATION IN
ALGERIA RESULTING FROM ESTIMATED 300,000 MOROCCANS RESIDING
THERE. WHETHER CASABLANCA EXPULSION WILL PROVOKE REACTION REMAINS
TO BE SEEN. END COMMENT

3. LATEST INSTALLMENT IN MIRROR-IMAGE WAR OF WORDS APPEARED
APRIL 17 IN LEAD STORY IN SEMI-OFFICIAL LE MATIN. STORY CLAIMED
BOUMEDIENE CONDUCTING "VAST PURGE" OF MINISTRIES OF INTERIOR AND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS. MANY HIGH OFFICIALS IN THESE MINISTRIES ALLEGEDLY
SACKED AND STORY CLAIMED THAT POWER STRUGGLE BETWEEN BOUTEFLIKA
AND SURETE CHIEF DRAIA HAD INCLUDED EXCHANGE OF CHARGES THAT
OTHER'S SUPPORTERS SYMPATHETIC TO ALGIERS MANIFESTO. BOUMEDIENE
SAID TO BE PROFITING FROM THIS COMPETITION, PERMITTING HIM TO
"DIVIDE AND RULE." STORY WENT ON TO ALLEGE: ONGOING ANTI-REGIME
DEMONSTRATIONS IN CITIES; ROADBLOCKS; ARREST OF POLICE CHIEF AND
TWO POLICEMEN AT FRONTIER TOWN OF MAGHNIA ON CHARGES OF SUPPORTING
ANTI-REGIME FORCES; ARREST OF CAPTAIN MOHIE-DINE, CHIEF OF
SURETE AT MAGHNIA; AND REPLACEMENT OF OFFICIALS THROUGHOUT
GOVERNMENT BY MILITARY OFFICERS.

4. OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY MAP APRIL 18 ALLEGED THAT ALGERIAN
FARMERS ACTIVELY RESISTING NEW TAXES EARMARKED FOR AID TO SDAR.
STORY ALSO CLAIMED THAT RELIGIOUS NOTABLE MOHAMED CHENTIR
ARRESTED FOR SUPPORTING ALGIERS MANIFESTO, ALONG WITH PRESIDENT OF
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF SIDI JILALI. GOA ALLEGEDLY ALSO REFUSING
PERMIT MARRIAGES BETWEEN MOROCCANS AND ALGERIANS AND EVEN
FORCING DIVORCES ON THOSE ALREADY MARRIED.

5. COMMENT. WHILE FREQUENCY OF ANTI-ALGERIAN OUTPUT IN MEDIA
HAS ABATED SOMEWHAT, ITS CONTENT REMAINS AS IMPLACABLY ANTI-
BOUMEDIENE AS EVER, WITH DOMINANT THEME CONTINUING THAT ALGERIAN
PRESIDENT IN DEEP TROUBLE.
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